

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-13, 15, 19-22, 27-30, ~~33~~ and 35 and amend the following claims.

A²
² ~~14~~. (Amended) A multi-piece mold as claimed in Claim ~~24~~², wherein the glass tube is a hollow cylindrical glass tube; and wherein the heat source includes distribution channels through which gas may be distributed with gas jets emanating along the inner surface of at least one of the pieces.

³ ~~16~~. (Amended) A multi-piece mold as claimed in Claim ~~14~~², wherein the distribution channels within the at least one piece is coupled to tubing coupling the distribution channels to a gas fitting to which a source of gas may be attached.

A³
⁴ ~~17~~. (Amended) A multi-piece mold as claimed in Claim ~~14~~², wherein ejection of gas occurs at several points along the inner surface of said at least one piece.

⁵ ~~18~~. (Amended) A multi-piece mold as claimed in Claim ~~14~~², wherein at least one of said pieces includes ventilation channels extending between its inner and outer surfaces to enable air and gases trapped between outer walls of the tube and the inner surfaces of the mold to escape.

A4
sub B1

24. (Amended) A multi-piece mold for shaping a glass tube comprising:
two elongated sleeve-like pieces which, when joined, encircle a portion of the tube for shaping the tube; and
an end plug piece including a cylindrical stub for insertion into the opening of the tube and dimensioned for allowing rotational movement of the tube about said cylindrical stub for controlling the inner diameter of the tube; and
wherein at least one of said pieces of the mold includes a heat source, formed within the one piece, for heating the tube to render it malleable.

A5
sub B2

31. (Amended) Apparatus for shaping a selected portion of a glass tube comprising:
a support means for holding the tube and for imparting rotational motion to the tube;
a multi-piece mold having one piece in which is formed a heat distribution source, said mold having two side pieces for imparting an oblate cone-like shape to a selected end portion of the tube while leaving an opening for accessing the opening of the tube at its selected end, and wherein said mold includes an end plug which is inserted in the opening of the tube and which is dimensioned for allowing rotational movement of the tube about the end plug for controlling the inner diameter of the tube at its end surface; and
an actuatable mechanical holding means for holding the multi piece mold, including means for holding the one piece in which is formed a heat distribution source, in proximity to the selected portion of the tube for heating the selected tube portion to